

Individual Evaluation Form

Proposal Number: 07-CCSP_07-0001

Organization Name: LMD/IPSL

Principal Investigator: Emily Chien

Evaluation Summary

Solicitation Title: Earth Science Document Review
Solicitation Number: NNH07ZDA001R
Evaluation Status: Submitted (08/02/2007 @ 12:30:32 EDT by Donald Blumenthal)
Review: CCSP - AIR QUALITY CHAPTER ONLY [CCSP AIR QLTY]
Reviewer: Donald Blumenthal (Reviewer)

Overall Grade:

Evaluation Criteria

Question 1 : Please distinguish issues you consider to be of general/major concern(s) from other, less significant point(s).

Is the charge clearly described? The general charge seems to be well described in the Executive Summary (ES), lines 129-138. The introduction to Chapter 2, however, does not really set the stage for the discussion of air quality decision support tools. It seems to be added on after the fact to address issues that hamper modeling of the response of air quality to climate changes. It doesn't really provide a context for the discussion of CMAQ. It would help to mention the current or proposed role of CMAQ in assessing the impact of climate change on air quality. Say why this chapter is about CMAQ and why CMAQ is important. Are all aspects of the charge fully addressed? There were five topics listed in the ES. Number 3 is to "Characterize the nature of interaction between users and producers of information in delivering, accessing, and assimilating information." The author discussed somewhat how the modelers interact with data sources, but there is little discussion of how decision makers will use the model results in a climate context or if and when the model results will be reliable enough to draw conclusions about the future air quality impacts of climate change. Do the authors go beyond their charge or their expertise? No.

Question 2 : Please distinguish issues you consider to be of general/major concern(s) from other, less significant point(s).

Are the conclusions and recommendations adequately supported by evidence, analysis, and argument? Mostly. See comments under #8. Are uncertainties or incompleteness in the evidence explicitly recognized? Pretty much. If any recommendations are based on value judgments or the collective opinions of the authors, is this acknowledged and are adequate reasons given for reaching those judgments? Yes

Question 3 : Please distinguish issues you consider to be of general/major concern(s) from other, less significant point(s).

Are the data and analysis handled competently? Are statistical methods applied appropriately? Yes.

Question 4 : Please distinguish issues you consider to be of general/major concern(s) from other, less significant point(s).

Are sensitive policy issues treated with proper care? Yes. Are the advantages and disadvantages of alternative options, including the status quo, considered? NA

Question 5 : Please distinguish issues you consider to be of general/major concern(s) from other, less significant point(s).

Are the report chapter's exposition and organization effective? See #1 and #8. Is the title appropriate? The title of the chapter is "Decision Support For Air Quality". This title doesn't reflect the climate context. The chapter is really about the ultimate use of CMAQ to help assess the response of air quality to climate change.

Question 6 : Please distinguish issues you consider to be of general/major concern(s) from other, less significant point(s).

Is the report chapter fair? Yes. Is its tone impartial and devoid of special pleading? Yes.

Question 7 : Please distinguish issues you consider to be of general/major concern(s) from other, less significant point(s).

Are chapter-relevant appendices, if any, appropriate to the charge? NA

Question 8 : Please distinguish issues you consider to be of general/major concern(s) from other, less significant point(s).

General comments: See answer to #1 regarding setting the stage with the chapter introduction. There is a lot of good information here, but the chapter is hard to follow in places unless you already know the subject. This is partly due to extensive use of acronyms and abbreviations, not all of which are defined, especially in the tables. A list of acronyms and abbreviations is needed. The "Source" column in Table 1 and the "Owner" column in Table 2 could use footnotes (or an appendix) that spell out the abbreviations and give contact or reference information for the entries. The usefulness of this chapter will be as a general overview and as a source of specific information (contacts, references) that readers can use to pursue their own needs. I also have numerous specific comments, but the site will not allow me to upload them. I will e-mail the comments in a file to Tracy Martin and John Haynes.